Montana Newsletter

Montana State Library

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MONTANA STATE LIBRARY

News UPDATE

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION
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HELENA, MONTANA 59620

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April, 1989 Update No. 8

House Bill 193, "Information Access Montana," sponsored by Representative Bob Thoft, made its way successfully through the Montana House of Representatives and has now been referred to the Senate Finance and Claims Committee. The bill, which proposes $3 million in state aid for public libraries, was passed by the House Appropriations Committee and then went on to pass its second reading before the full house 65 - 30 and its third reading 60 - 35.

Joanne Lerud, Director of the Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology, has been named by Carol Krause, Montana Commissioner of Higher Education, to serve as his designee to the Montana State Library Commission. Lerud replaces Montana State University Libraries Director, Noreen Alldredge.

On March 30, Governor Stan Stephens signed a proclamation declaring 1989 the Year of the Montana Librarian. The proclamation, in observance of National Library Week April 9 - 15, is an effort to bring to the attention of Montanans the wide range of skills required of the library profession. Attending the signing ceremony at the Governor's office were State Librarian, Richard Miller; Barb Benish from the Montana City School representing school libraries; Cheri Bergeron from the Office of Public Instruction representing special libraries; Joanne LeRud from Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology representing academic libraries, and Debbie Schlesinger from the Lewis & Clark Public Library, representing public libraries.

20 Montana libraries have each been awarded the Library of America series of classic American novels. Each library will pay $250 toward the purchase of the 60-book collection regularly sold at a retail price of $1,650. The set price was reduced to $1,000 for purchase by libraries. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Montana Committee for the Humanities contributed the awards of $750 to each of the 20 libraries toward the purchase of the books.

Two vacant positions in public library administration in the state have recently been filled. Deni Corrigan is the new director of the Hearst Free Library in Anaconda. Corrigan, who replaces Juli Shepard who resigned February 17, was previously the St. James Community Hospital medical librarian. As of April first Patti Jo Thomas has replaced Evelyn Prouty who served as the director of the Stevensville Public Library for 18 years. Thomas has worked in several libraries including the Library of Congress, the United States Census Bureau and the Shoreline Community College in Seattle.

PLEASE RETURN

"One Person Can Make the Difference," is the theme of this year's combined Pacific Northwest Library Association (PNLA) and Idaho Library Association (ILA) conference to be held at a new resort/conference center in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, August 16 - 19. The keynote speaker is Joseph Olander, President of Evergreen State College and winner of the New York Times "Outstanding Book of the Year Award" for his book, Run to Starlight. Workshops include literature by and about the extremist right; building community support, service to home-schoolers, northwest mystery fiction, and a presentation on a "weeding system that works." Those persons who are not PNLA members who wish to receive a registration packet should contact Lee Starr, Conference Treasurer, Hayden Library, 8385 N. Government Way, Hayden, ID 83835-0872.

Mary Bushing, Library Development Officer at the Montana State Library, presented a collection development workshop at the Public Library Association Conference in Chicago on March 30 and 31. Bushing reported that 170 persons attended the CD workshop, and that it was the best attended of all the workshops offered at the conference.

The deadline for submitting Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) Title II applications was April third. LSCA Coordinator, Sheila Cates reports that she received four applications. The Lewistown City Library has requested $154,282; the John Gregory Public Library in Whitehall has requested $647; the Flathead County Library in Kalispell has requested $75,000 for its branch in Marion and the Butte-Silver Bow Public Library has asked for $154,000. The applications will now be forwarded to a review committee of Advisory Council members.They will make recommendations to the entire Advisory Council who will make their reccomendation to the State Library Commission.The Commission will take action at their April 29 meeting. This year there are $154,282 in matching LSCA Title II funds available for Montana projects.

Ten Montana libraries have been selected to host 10-week discussion programs on railroads and their effect on American culture. The weekly discussions will be targeted toward older American and will be led by humanities scholars. The participants are the public libraries in the following communities: Anaconda, Conrad, Forsyth, Glasgow, Havre, Hot Springs, Kalispell, Livingston and Missoula and the Fort Peck Community College Library in Poplar.

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